

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 NIC-01

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P R 151601Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1443

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT

REF: LISBON 209

1. LISBON WAS SCENE OF LARGE DEMONSTRATION EVENING OF JANUARY 14 AS INTERSINDICAL, THE COMMUNIST PARTY, MDP/CDE, AND A NUMBER OF SMALL ER SIMILARLY-ORIENTED ORGANIZATIONS DISPLAYED AN IMPRESSIVE ABILITY TO STAGE AN ORDERLY AND WELL-ORGANIZED PARADE AND RALLY. ESTIMATES OF CROWD SIZE VARY FROM 40,000 TO PRESS CLAIMS OF 300,000. EMBASSY OBSERVERS PLACE NUMBER AT ROUGHLY 100,000. PARTICIPANTS CHANTED SLOGANS SUPPORTING LABOR UNITY, AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT, AND IN FAVOR OF UNITY OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. UPON ARRIVAL AT LABOR MINISTRY, DEMONSTRATORS WERE ADDRESSED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERSINDICAL AND BY MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS, WHO IN A BRIEF SPEECH SAID THAT THE ISSUE AT STAKE IS WHETHER THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY

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WILL BE ACCEPTED.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JANUARY 15 MINISTER COSTA MARTINS STATED THAT 1,100,000 WORKERS HAD DECLARED, THROUGH MEETINGS HELD BY THEIR LOCAL UNIONS, IN FAVOR OF A UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT WHILE UNIONS REPRESENTING ONLY 40,000 WORKERS HAD DECLARED THEMSELVES OPPOSED. HE DEFINED A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT AS ONE WHERE NO UNION MAY REPRESENT THE WORKERS OF A GIVEN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IF THERE IS ALREADY EXISTING IN THAT GEOGRAPHIC AREA A UNION HAVING JURISDICTION IN THE SECTOR. MINISTER SAID THE WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO JOIN A UNION AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WILL BE OBSERVED IN UNION ELECTIONS.

3. THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL HOLD A DEMONSTRATION JANUARY 16 IN LISBON'S SPORTS PAVILION AGAINST ANY FORM OF A DIRECTED LABOR MOVEMENT. AS CAPACITY OF PAVILION APPROXIMATELY 10,000, RELATIVE STRENGTH OF SOCIALIST OPPOSITION TO A UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT IS READILY APPARENT. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750015-0740
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750150/aaaabsfu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 209
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO, (MARTINS, COSTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006